(ii) The Chief Security Commissioners have been directed to co-ordinate with the Police authorities so that a concerted effort is made by both the authorities.

(iii) Armed pickets of RPF have been deployed at vulnerable stations/ sections to supplement the preventive measures taken by the Police.

Towns/Districts without rail link

2200. SHRI R. KAMARAJ:
SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many important towns and district headquarters in the country are not having rail link;

(b) if so, the names of such places, State-wise;

(c) the details of the proposals with Government to provide rail link for those places and the amount of funds earmarked for the same; and

(d) by when these proposals would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) Most of the important towns and district headquarters in the country have been provided with access to rail services. The expansion of the rail network is a continuous and need based exercise that is undertaken by taking an integrated view of the nation's requirement and keeping the overall resource availability in mind. While doing so, all representations/proposals received from the State Governments, public representatives, user agencies, and other public interest groups/ individuals are also kept in mind. At present about 8500 kms of new rail lines are sanctioned at a cost of approx. Rs. 27,650 crores.

Extension of Dangri-Saikhowa section of NF Railway

2201. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for extension of Dangri-Saikhowa section of NF Railway; and

(b) if so, the status of the sanction, total amount, the estimated cost and the feasibility report, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Preliminary Engg.-cum-Traffic survey for a new BG rail line from Dangri to Saikhowaghat (Dhola) has been completed in Nov. 2000. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this 5.683 km. long line has been assessed as Rs. 15.37 cr. with a negative rate of return. In view of the unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources, it has not been found feasible to take up the project.

Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh Rail Link

2202. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of work on Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh rail link project;

(b) the reasons for slow progress on the project, which was sanctioned way back in 1993-94; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to complete the project at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) In Phase I, work has been taken up from Lanjigarh Road to Bhavanipatna (31 km) where earthwork and bridge works are in progress. Railway are facing resource constraint. The work is being progressed as per availability of resources.

Biotechnological breakthroughs for medicines

2203. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any breakthroughs have been made in the field of biotechnology since January, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the same would help, in any manner, to produce cost-effective and safe medicines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?